

A

Narrative of FACTS,

Demonstrating the

Actual Existence and true Cause

O F T H A T

Physical Confederacy,

In B A T H,

Made known to the PUBLIC

In the printed Letters of

Dr. LUCAS and Dr. OLIVER.

By WILLIAM BAYLIES, M. D.

Acrem me habebunt, verissimumque Vindicem. Fraudesque detegam, ab artis hujus incunabilis, in hunc usque diem usurpatas, idque reipsa comprobabo haud suspectæ fidei testimoniis; simulque omnia stigmata Societati nostræ iniusta, detergam.

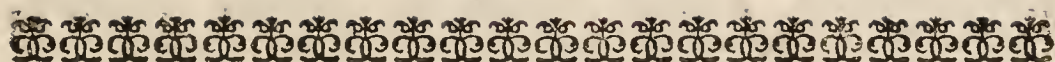
MERRETT.

B A T H:

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TO THE
READER.

A Zeal for the honour of the healing art, which must ever be inseperable from that of its professors, gives me no small reluctance at being under a necessity of offering the following narrative to the public ; as the exposing the evil practices of a few members of any profession seldom fails of injuring the credit of that society in general.

Truth must be the good man's chief care, and self-preservation is the first law of nature. There is nothing more natural or just than aspiring at a fair reputation, the most valuable possession in life ; and whenever persons of distinguished

tinguished rank stoop to form combinations against these, to the prejudice of any individual in the exercise of his function ; as it must be presumed this cannot be without some manifest cause, it becomes the duty of such individual, conscious of his own integrity, to bring matters to a fair test, and to a public explanation.

It is now no longer a secret, since the publication of Dr. Lucas's letters, that a physical confederacy, however arbitrary, illegal and oppressive, has been formed against certain individuals at Bath ; and from the distinguished rank of the associated physicians, the persons by them rejected must be presumed in the wrong, until the true state of the case is laid before the public.

The vindication of my profession, the cause of truth, and the honour of a friend

friend justly dear, and in this instance involved with me, jointly concur to demand this at my hands ; it becomes therefore my indispensable duty, and I shall proceed to the performance of it, in as cool and dispassionate a manner as the nature of the subject will permit.

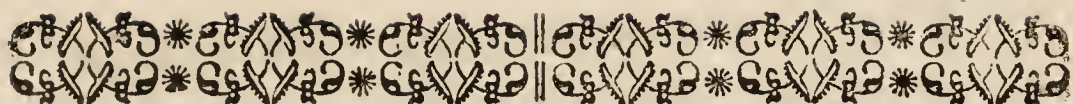
It cannot be pleasing to a humane mind, to have any disputes with his neighbours, and especially with his brethren. But necessity has no law : The attack is made upon me, by men of such characters as will give the world room to fix any calumny, if I should silently acquiesce under the injurious treatment offered me.

In justice therefore to my friends, to the public, and to myself, I am forced thus to make known, that the learned doctors, William Oliver, Abel Moy-

Moysey, and Rice Charleton, celebrated practitioners of physic at Bath, have jointly resolved not to attend any patient in consultation with me : This, they declared first in most injurious terms to some of the patients at Bath, before their secret resolutions reached my ears; and upon my discovering of it, they avowed the charge, and offered terms of reconciliation, which no man of honour could possibly accept. Hence it is easy to see, that I must lye under this obloquy 'till the grounds of these proceedings are laid open; this I have done in the following simple narrative of stated facts, which I now submit to the judgment of the impartial public.


W. B.

BATH, NOV. 25, 1757.



A

Narrative of Facts, &c.


 Certain lady of distinction, advised to come to Bath for the restoration of her health, was so little benefited after several months bathing and drinking the waters, and taking a multitude of medicines, that a consultation of physicians was thought necessary, and was accordingly proposed to Dr. CHARLETON, the then attending physician ; with which he readily complied, and appointed the next day at noon for the meeting, without being then told with whom he was to consult.

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The same evening, Oct. 25, a written message was left at my house, while I was from home, desiring my attendance on the patient at one the next day.

I attended at the time and place appointed, and being introduced into the patient's apartment, I found another lady and the attending physician, with her.

On my entrance, I readily perceived so much displeasure and confusion in the doctor's countenance, as sufficiently manifested that my appearance there was far from being expected, or in any sort agreeable to him.

Regardless of this, I resolved to lay myself out to learn the patient's case; and being informed, that the
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physician, then present, had been long her attendant, and that I was then called there to consult with him upon the case ; I addressed myself to him, and sat some time attentive, in expectation of his informing me of the rise and progress of the disease, and of the methods that had been used for obtaining a cure.

But, to my great surprize, I found the doctor so far from being explicit, or from shewing any disposition to let me know any thing relating to the purport of our meeting, that he answered the few questions, I asked him, in monosyllables, scarcely to be heard.

Upon this, I addressed myself to the patient, in order to obtain the best account I could, of the nature of her complaints. And, after near

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an hour's examination, for this purpose ; during all which time, the doctor was present, without offering to lessen the feeble patient's trouble, in answering the necessary questions I asked her. But when he found, that I had finished my enquiry into the nature of the disease ; without offering any assistance, he looked upon his watch, said he had an appointment with Dr. Frewin, and was obliged at that instant to be gone.

Surprized at so extraordinary a proceeding, I told him, that I hoped he would not leave the patient 'till we had agreed what was best to be done for her relief.

His answer was, that he could not stay at that time ; but that he would leave me with the lady, and would see me again ; and here-
upon

upon, with common ceremonies, left the room.

The other lady, who remained all the while in the chamber, followed the doctor, expressed her concern at his seeming displeased ; feared the gentleman called in, was not agreeable to him ; was very sorry for it ; and as no body could be presumed to have foreseen this, hoped he had no just cause to take offence at her or the patient ; because, as he had before agreed to a consultation, it was reasonable to apprehend the choice of the consulting physician was to be freely left to the patient or her friends ; or words to this effect.

To which, the doctor answered, he did not know he was to meet Dr. Baylies ; that he wished the

patient well, and would continue still to visit her as a friend ; but could by no means do so as a physician ; with which friendly, prudent, and polite speech, he took his leave.

After this conversation, the lady returned to the patient's chamber ; where, on my asking if the doctor was not gone, highly displeased at my being there ? I learned the declaration, he had made at his departure, as is above related.

Upon this, I reply'd, that as the patient's case was not so acute as to suffer much from the delay of a single day ; I should then prescribe no medicine ; but would deliberately consider the nature of the malady, and endeavour to see the doctor again by the next day ; not doubting, from the
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opinion I had of his sense, and humanity, that he would think better of the matter, and not desert both his interest and his duty, so very abruptly.

Upon this, I took leave of the patient for the present ; having first made my prognostic ; which was, that I had reason to hope for alleviating, if not effectually relieving, her complaints. I added, that no consideration should induce me to decline due attendance on any patient, that should consult me, and that I would not fail to wait upon her again the next day, at the same hour, and let her know my opinion more fully, whether Dr. CHARLETON should think fit to meet me or not.

The remainder of the day past without my seeing or hearing any thing

thing of the doctor ; whereupon, the next morning, I sent him a written message, desiring to know, if at any or what time or place that morning, he would give me a meeting, to consult for the patient, or if he would be at the patient's lodgings at the hour of one, when I had appointed to attend there.

To this, I receiv'd a verbal answer ; that he should be glad to see me at his house, if it was agreeable to me. Thither I immediately went, on the receipt of this message, laying aside all degrees of resentment, that might interfere with the discharge of my duty.

I now hoped to find the doctor in the like disposition, and that we should amicably and effectually discharge our respective duties to the patient.

But,

But, how shall I express my disappointment, when the doctor declared his intentions to relinquish the patient entirely? Thus it was, and thus the doctor broke silence;—
 ‘Sir, *you* have got a bad case under your care.’—I answered, ‘I hoped he meant *we*, as the lady was his patient, and I but the consulting physician.’—
 He reply’d, ‘no, sir, I cannot attend her any longer, it is to no purpose,’ and some other doubtful expressions to the like effect.

Upon my demanding an explanation, he added, ‘that I must take the care of the patient upon my self; for, that I was not to expect, that he, or either of the other physicians to the hospital, could hold any consultation, with one who had rendered them so infamous in the eyes of the world, as Dr. Baylies had done, in
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several passages of his reflections on the uses and abuses of Bath waters.

My answer was, that I had published nothing, but what appeared to me to be strictly true; that if it was so, their proving it otherwise would certainly retort the odium upon me; and if the truth was any reflection upon them, it was not my printing, but their doing the thing that was wrong, that fixt the reflection.

He went on and said, that I had particularly given opposition to him, for that when he was elected a physician to the hospital, I endeavoured to procure a process at law to set aside his election.

In answer to this, I assured him, he had much mistaken me, that my attempt was not to have invalidated his

his election, but to have compelled the election of three other physicians, in conjunction with him and his colleagues, which by the measures the governors had taken, by virtue of the act of parliament for establishing the hospital, and by an express clause in the said act, was no longer left to them as a matter of discretion, but was expressly directed and required to be done.

I further added, that had he read, or understood, the plain letter I sent to him, and to the rest of the governors on that occasion, he would have seen, that I made no opposition to him ; that I thought he was as proper a person to be chosen an attendant on that school of physic, as any one in Bath ; and that as I well knew, he had apply'd to be elected, before I had any thoughts or know-
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ledge of there being an election, I never intended standing, in any sense, a competitor with him, on that occasion.

Upon this, he confessed, he had never looked upon my proceedings in any such light; and that the reflections I had published in my book upon the waters, appeared to him so very scandalous, that neither he or the other physicians to the hospital, could meet and consult with me: But, if I pleased, I might see upon the file of the apothecary what had been done for the patient.

I now saw the concerted association distinctly, and could not help treating it with some degree of the deserved contempt. I told him, I had already looked over, the long, black catalogue of medicines given the patient. And

And it gave me concern to find, he purposed to run, in all things, to extremities, as well in regard to the public and to the patient, as in his conduct towards me. I could not hesitate at pronouncing these proceedings unwarrantable, a dishonour to the profession, injurious to the public, and unjust and ungrateful to a patient so long intrusted to his care; and that I much wondered how he could possibly give her up in this manner; bidding him remember, that in the end, these proceedings might prove hurtful where he least intended they should.

I could not avoid further observing to him, that I had had the honour of being consulted for persons of as high distinction, and with physicians of as great learning and eminence, perhaps as any man at

Bath might boast ; and that this was so much the reverse of any treatment I ever receiv'd, that he could not be surprized if I took the proper means of resenting and exposing it.

Before I took my leave, I resolved to ask him to explain his exceptions to consulting with me : I demanded, if he had any objection to my moral character, to my capacity, to my qualification in my profession ?—To which he was pleased to answer, that his sole objection was to the manner in which I treated him, and the other physicians of the hospital, in my book on Bath waters ; which, he said, was quite inexcusable, and such as rendered it impossible for him, or them, to meet me in consultation for any patient.

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Here I saw the becoming fury of the association begin to boil over. This shew'd me how strongly attached to their patients these gentlemen were, who could at any time, quit even those that had most and longest confided in them, upon the calling into consultation, any man that was not likely to prove pliant and passive enough for their purposes.

Seeing honourable peace at too great a distance to be expected, convinced that no man's reputation could be raised by falling into consultation with factious selfish men, and that however ill-founded his exceptions were to consulting with me, there were objections that would prevent any *regular* practitioner's consulting with him ; since the retailers or pedlars of pretended or real secrets, either of their own or
others

others invention, were, ipso facto, excluded all communication and conference, with men of that open, communicative, beneficent disposition, that must ever attend the legitimate and worthy sons of Æsculapius ; and as I well knew certain specific epileptic lozenges had been sold by no less a man, than the celebrated Dr. CHARLETON of Bath, I thought I had a right to make some reprizals, and could not avoid being free in my turn.

Incurable therefore as he looked upon our patient, I bad him in that respect be comforted. For, tho' he prognosticated, that she had no chance for amendment ; yet having considered her case, and perused the complicated prescriptions given her since her arrival at Bath, I had reason, in this as in other instances, to
differ

differ in opinion from him : Because, I was ready to make it appear, that from the patient's coming to Bath, she had not taken a single prescription, that did not tend more to increase, than to remove or correct the disease.

About this time, it is probable we both became a little more warm, than became physicians, in consultation ; but physicians are but men ; and human frailties must sometimes disguise the best of us. Here, the doctor stopped my career, with saying—‘ After these reflections and declarations, sir, you can never expect that I should meet you in consultation.’

To which, I replied ; ‘ Sir, had you not before formed this unjust resolution against me, I might have
spared

spared these reflections and declarations, from motives of pure humanity. You have extorted them from me, by your previous determination. Remember however, that I have not gone behind your back to utter them, nor have I yet divulged my sentiments on these matters ; and if these practices will not bear the light, think what self-preservation prompts and authorizes ; and do not put me under the necessity of taking measures, that may dishonour the profession in the eyes of the undiscerning multitude, who are ever apt to cast reflections, from particulars, upon the whole.

The doctor, from motives best known to himself, now seemed a little mollified. He said, I must observe that he was not the sole particular, since Dr. MOYSEY had made
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the same declaration ; and that I could not forget, that Dr. OLIVER had already openly refused to consult with me. Yet notwithstanding, he was pleased to tell me, he knew I had good nature ; and complimenting me upon some other good qualities, perhaps just found to serve the present purpose ; he declared he esteemed me, and though he thought himself in some measure bound to act in concert with Dr. OLIVER and Dr. MOYSEY ; yet his aversion to discord, and regard to me, would induce him to give me a meeting at the patient's, about one o'clock, if I would be there at that time.

However provoked at past conduct, I could not be unmoved at this. I expressed my satisfaction at it, and said, that if he resolved to meet me, like a gentleman and a physician, de-

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termin'd with assiduity to co-operate with me in the recovery of our patient, which should certainly engage our attentions entirely ; I was ready to drop all resentment, and let what was past be buried in oblivion.

He assured me, such were his purposes ; and matters being thus amicably accommodated, we fell a-while into conversation upon indifferent matters, with freedom and ease. The doctor politely shewed me his house ; and we parted in all appearance on both sides, certainly on mine, in perfect amity, reciprocally repeating the hour of our appointed meeting.

We accordingly met, agreeable to our appointment, and proceeded to examine the nature and state of the patient's malady, with due attention and care.

Having

Having by the necessary examination of the patient, mutually satisfied each other of the state of the case; we retired, in order to compare our respective sentiments, and to agree upon the method of cure. Each of us offered his thoughts freely; and after some time thus spent in consultation, we agreed upon a prescription, committed it to writing, and according to law, gave it the necessary sanction, by subscribing the initial letters of our names.

I shall not arrogate to myself any merit upon this prescription. For, though it was formed upon a very different plan from any of the preceding in this case; I cannot deny the other physician his share; it is enough, that the whole had his sanction.

When this was done, and we had as well agreed in the necessary regimen, we returned to inform the patient of the product of our consultation ; which we did in seeming, and on my part, in perfect concord and amity. And, solicitous for the respectable patient's recovery from a disorder, which had baffled all the attempts hitherto made ; I took our prescription to the apothecary's, to give strict charge, and more particular direction for its preparation.

We took our leaves of the patient, and left the house together. But, before we took leave of each other, I told the doctor, I considered myself here only as the consulting physician ; that, as it was a chronic case, it was not necessary I should meet him formally every day. But,
that

that I would call sometimes, as I went by, to see how the patient went on in the directed course ; wait 'till I was called upon ; or appoint to meet him again, as it was most agreeable to him ; for, while I should studiously avoid leaving the patient room to suspect me of mercenary views, I should as carefully obviate all grounds for the attending physician's suspecting me of ingratiating myself with a view to supplant him, or to give any sort of cause of jealousy.

Upon this, the doctor proposed our meeting again at the patient's, on the Sunday following, to which, each agreeing, we parted, as became physicians and friends.

Thus I thought a lasting foundation for peace and amity was laid ;
but

but it seems my hopes were groundless.

While I was engaged with Dr. CHARLETON, Dr. OLIVER made a visit to a patient above stairs, in the same house ; where mention being made of the consultation below stairs, the latter gentleman, in a manner peculiar to himself, burst out into terms of reproach and indignation, at Dr. CHARLETON's mean condescension in consulting with me.

A person of honour, present at this conversation, expressing some surprize at such behaviour, and asking, would not Dr. OLIVER consult with Dr. Baylies, if she desired him ? received an answer in manifest wrath, in these or the like terms ; ‘ No ; never ; I would consult with any body but LUCAS or BAYLIES ; and
with

with these, I will never hold any consultation, for any patient whatever.' Thus officiously, and secretly, did this gentleman take occasion to prejudice persons, who can not be said to have ever given him any just cause of offence.

But this was not the first instance of Dr. OLIVER's malevolence to me. Dr. CHARLETON, as observed, page 19, took notice of that gentleman's refusing to consult with me. Let me take this opportunity of explaining the extraordinary conduct of that great man upon this occasion.

This was the case of a patient* in the most dangerous and deplorable circumstances, which induced me to call for assistance. A gentleman of unquestionable ability in

* Mrs. PURDIE.

his

his profession was called in. But, least, from a known intimacy between him and me, any dishonourable suspicions might be raised, in case of the patient's death, which was much to be dreaded; I desired that Dr. OLIVER, whose rank, character and unacquaintance with me, left no room for any such suspicions; should be called in to our assistance; to which, the tender, anxious husband of the patient readily agreed.

The doctor came; visited and examined the patient alone, contrary to all rule and custom, refusing, when he found with whom he was to be concerned, to see the other physicians, who then were, and for hours before had been, waiting for him. But, to justify a conduct, which shews that any body may die at Bath, before ill-founded resentments
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can be laid aside, or illicit associations broken; tho' the doctor's retreat was rather too precipitate for a person of his gravity and dignity; he did not depart before he gave the by-standers assurance, that if the patient should die, it must be through the fault of the attending physician only.

This he did, by making flight of the disorder; saying, there was no occasion for him; there were physicians enough; especially as he pronounced her out of all sort of danger, with more confidence than became, so cautious a practitioner, in a less doubtful case.

It is easy to see the drift of this behaviour. It appears plainly calculated for a trap, to undo my reputation; to say nothing of deny-
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ing his assistance to a patient in the last distress, leaving her to die, to gratify a private pique. If she had died, it might have been no easy matter to make an afflicted husband and friends think otherwise than Dr. OLIVER taught. Who could suspect the honour, more than the humanity of a person, of his rank and fame in life? I must of course have fallen, with the patient, a victim to this great man's boundless pride and indignation.

But, providence graciously interposed, and saved both the patient and physician, from the intended ruin. However easy it was pronounced, or might be found, by Dr. OLIVER, to save this patient's life; I am not ashamed to confess, that I thought her in most imminent danger; and found it extremely difficult, to give the desired
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relief ; or, in less than some months, to re-establish her health. My coadjutor was of the same opinion, and found the like difficulty. But, God, of his great mercy, blessed our endeavours, and restored her to health, when we least could have expected it.

If dishonour must attend refusals to consult in this manner ; let the humane and just judge on whom it is to fall ; and hence see how necessary to the public, and to self-vindication, this narrative appears ; and consider, how dangerous a precedent for Dr. CHARLETON and others, Dr. OLIVER has thus attempted to make.

After what past between Dr. CHARLETON and me in our last meeting, I looked for nothing but peace and harmony, at least be-

tween him and me. My expectations were raised higher by the favour of a visit from this gentleman, on the morning of the day, preceeding that appointed for our consultation.

After polite salutations, the doctor, in apparent good humour and friendship, gave me to understand, that he had the pleasure of coming to me of an errand, which he hoped would be agreeable ; that he came as the Herald of peace.

I could not but be pleased with the found of peace, come whence it would ; but as the doctor spoke it in these terms, calling himself *the herald of peace* ; I answering, asked him, in the same strain, from what Potentates he came ? He did not keep me long in suspense ; he
readily

readily replied, from Dr. OLIVER and Dr. MOYSEY. I did not hesitate at telling him, the gentlemen did me great and unexpected honour; and I received their message, and their messenger, with joy and gratitude.

He informed me, that they did not object to me, because I was not bred in Oxford or Cambridge, or for want of ability in my profession, or any such-like cause; but that their sole objection arose from certain freedoms, I had taken with their characters, in my book upon the waters; and as they desired to remove all obstacles to being in friendship with me; they sent him impowered to talk over the particulars with me.

At this, he took my Reflections on the uses and abuses of Bath Waters,
out

out of his pocket ; telling me, that he and the other gentlemen had underlined the passages in it, at which they had taken offence, and that he would point them out to me, in order to the setting all things to rights.

These appearances of judgment and candour could not fail of raising my respect and admiration ; and making me express my gratitude in the best terms I could. But, how different was the disposition of the three gentlemen, from any thing I apprehended, will appear from the cited passages, the manner of objecting to them, and the proposals for my contradicting them, whilst their truth stood on all hands confessed.

The first objection was marked, against these words, page 124. *The Physicians to the Hospital have hither-*

to not only shamefully neglected the communication of the good and bad effects of the waters on the patients therein, but have most artfully monopolized all opportunities of improvement, which that charitable institution affords.

The next was to setting forth, that after *six* physicians to the hospital were once legally elected, when the patients were but *forty*, and that now they are increased to more than *an hundred*, they are reduced to *three only*; and that this has been done by means of a private or pretended by-law, not authenticated by the bishop and judges, as by the act is required; in which by-law, it is resolved, that *three* physicians and *no more* should for the future attend the charity, and after observing, that the act of parliament, without directing any number of physicians

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to the hospital, but leaving it to the general court to choofe any number they please, directs, that if there be any vacancy or vacancies of any of the faid perfons appointed by this act, or chofen at a general court by virtue thereof into any office or employment, happening by death or removal, fuch vacancy or vacancies fhall be filled up at a general court, giving fourteen days notice thereof, from all which it is interrogated in the following words, Page 126 ;

How repugnant therefore is this private order to the exprefs words of the ftatute for eftablifhing the hospital ?

And again, That an order for the reducing the number of phyficians, and thereby leffening the affiftance which might be given to the afflicted poor, when the fame is not attended with the leaft expence to the charity, must

must be made with an intent to answer a private, and not a public, purpose, and be universally allowed deserving of the severest censure.

Again, page 128, having reference to the same pretended by-law, I assert, *That it is detrimental to the public interest of the hospital, injurious to the patients therein, and repugnant to the very statute under which the power is claimed for making it.* And page 31, speaking of the neglect of publishing the cases, and this exclusive by-law, I aver, *that it is counter-acting the wise and benevolent purposes of this excellent institution, and can arise only from a mercenary meanness of spirit, or a worse principle.*

These were the several passages in my book, which had so greatly offended these worthy gentlemen, as to

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have

have made them ready to revenge them, even on the sick ; however, as they were so kind as to point them out to me, I judged it my right, and my duty, to speak to the charge laid against me.

I therefore demanded what he objected to these passages, and what he, and the gentlemen that sent him, desired to have done on the occasion ?

He told me, that he and they looked upon these *reflections* to be very *unjust* ; and, for that reason, expected that I should *publicly acknowledge* the *charge* I had made to be the *result of misinformation*.

I judged truth too great a sacrifice to the *palm* and *olive* branches brought by this *herald*, and therefore declared, retracting an error, and advancing a truth,

truth, were to me, one and the same. That when I was convinced of an error, I would as publicly retract it as I had uttered it; but that, while I had every proof of truth of my side, I was astonished how any gentlemen could make such a proposal, as could not be complied with, consistent with the due regard to truth and honour.

I then appealed to Dr. CHARLETON, if it was not true, that the *histories* of the *cases* had been *neglected to be published*, and if the *experience* of the *hospital* had not *long* been, and *then* was, *actually monopolized*, or limited to the knowledge of *three* physicians only, by virtue of the pretended by-law above mentioned.

These were facts he could not deny, but convinced of their truth, was obliged to admit; on which I

told him, that I could not but think the *first*, to be *shameful*, and the *last*, *artful*; and that, as I could see no public good, it could possibly produce, to *limit* the number of physicians to *three only*, but *many private ends*; which such a by-law might be expected to answer; I must still be of opinion, that it was intended, in it's first institution, to promote a *private*, not a *public purpose*, and that it could arise only from a *mercenary meanness of spirit*, or a *worse principle*; and as it was a *great abuse* of a charity, it could not be otherwise than *deserving* of the *severest censure*.

I likewise added, it was notorious, that the support of that law, had not only kept *many from subscribing*, to the charity, but had induced others to *withdraw their subscriptions*, which fully justified my assertion, page 128,
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that it was *detrimental* to the interest of the hospital.

Then, as every gentleman who had had a physical education, might be presumed to have acquired some particular improvement, worthy of being communicated to others; and, as no method of cure, in any disease, had been found to be universally infallible; it was highly probable, that the exclusion of any of the gentlemen, that practiced at Bath, from attending the hospital, might deprive some of the patients there, of some benefits which their councils might afford, had they been admitted into the hospital; whence I concluded, that every such exclusive law must be *lessening* the *assistance* to the afflicted poor, and *injurious* to them.

Moreover, as it excluded all but the attending physicians, the advantage

tage of the experience, which the hospital should afford ; such a law plainly *counteracted* one of the wise and benevolent purposes, for which the hospital was founded. And as the *governors*, at a *general court*, had at one time *elected six* physicians, by virtue of the act ; and the act had enjoined, that as often as any of the persons so chosen, should *die*, or be *removed*, another *should be elected* in his stead ; tho' the act expressly named no particular number to attend the hospital ; yet, as they had once elected *six*, the making a subsequent by-law, to reduce that number, was *repugnant* to the very letter of the act, under which they claimed the power to make it.

Thus I shewed the doctor, that I could not but justify, upon this occasion, all I had published ; yet, to convince the gentlemen, how desirous

firsous I was to be in peace and friendship with them, I told him, I would acknowledge, that the inferences I had drawn from the facts, however just, might as well have been omitted, as every reader must naturally have drawn such for himself, from an information of the facts; and therefore, to oblige them, when I published another edition of my book, these inferences, or injurious epithets or adverbs, of *shamefully, artfully, injuriously, private, mean, mercenary, &c.* should all be omitted: Nay, I further added, that as he had acknowledged the facts to be true, I would submit it to the judgment of any disinterested, sensible gentleman, whether the inferences I had drawn, were just, or otherwise; and that if such a person should judge them wrong, that I would readily make any concession, he should in reason and honour

honour award. And thus offered to submit the whole to the arbitration of any indifferent, just person; being persuaded, that parties, naturally prejudiced, were very unfit judges in their own cause.

The doctor seemed to think, there was some weight, some justice, in this answer to his message; and inclined to think, it presaged peace: For, he immediately declared, he was glad to hear me offer such sentiments; that he would go directly, and make them known, to Dr. OLIVER and Dr. MOYSEY; believing, that if I were at home, I should soon receive a message from Dr. OLIVER.

I assured him, that I should persist in the same disposition; should wait Dr. OLIVER's call; be ready to attend him; and should do any thing that was just, to deserve his friendship.

Upon

Upon this, we parted. And I did not doubt, we should soon have a general meeting ; in which, we should have removed all cause of misunderstanding, and adjusted all matters in dispute, as we should have done, amicably, among ourselves, without any appeal to the public. But, that this was impossible, will soon appear, and surprize the candid, dispassionate reader, as much as it did me.

I waited at home a considerable time, without hearing from Dr. OLIVER, or either of the other gentlemen. I might have attended in expectation much longer, to no better purpose ; for no message was sent to me, before the afternoon.

Then it was, that Dr. CHARLETON favoured me with another visit, which unexpectedly produced another conference

ference. The gentlemen, it seems, had taken longer time to deliberate on the subject. They found, I expressed myself with respect towards them, and with a desire to obtain their friendship. This probably made them rise in their demands, and propose such terms for admitting me to a share of their favour, as made me think the purchase rather too dear ; but this I shall submit to the reader.

The doctor resumed his former commission, and told me, he had communicated the purport of our last conference to Dr. OLIVER and Dr. MOYSEY ; that they had considered it, and came to a resolution, which must bring the whole matter to a short compass and issue, if I could give a plain categorical answer to their proposal.

Judging

Judging they could propose nothing that could admit of doubt or hesitation, after what had passed; I promised to be as direct and explicit in my answer as he could expect.

Whereupon he proceeded, that as I had publicly accused the doctors as governors of the hospital, of such heavy charges, there was no way to reconciliation left, but by retracting what I had said, and acknowledging in the public papers, that what I had printed, with respect to the hospital, was the result of mistake or misinformation, and an unjust and ungentle treatment of those worthy guardians of that charity; this done, he said, they would readily forgive, and meet me at any time in consultation. But, if I would not, he pronounced, that they were jointly determined to refuse me the honour of their sanction.

Had any thing been offered to invalidate the truth of my charges against these governors ; the proposing to accept a penitent sinner into favour, would have been an act of condescension and charity. But, while these charges stood in full and stronger force than I had yet publicly given them ; I must confess, I was astonished at so unexpected a proposal.

However, as coolly as possible, I recapitulated my former offers, desired to have the instances pointed out, and proved, where I had abused or misrepresented any man ; or where I had made a mistake, or founded any charge upon misinformation ; and, regardless of the mighty reward of their proffered friendship, in pure regard to truth and justice, I should not only grant, but even go further than, their demand. But, that while the asser-

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tions I had made, appeared incontestible, indeed uncontested truths, no consideration should induce me to relinquish a tittle of them. I declared my sorrow for finding so extravagant a price set upon their friendship, as the sacrificing indisputable truths, of public import, to wilful, deliberate, notorious falsehoods, and these to serve the private ends of a few ; and that, as these were terms unworthy of the offer, they must be unfit for the acceptance, of a man of any sense of honour or common honesty ; I must therefore, with detestation, reject them.

The doctor, I hope, knew me too well, to be surprized at an answer to this effect. He said, he was glad to find me thus plain and explicit ; and as matters were now so circumstanced, he could not meet me
again

again ; that he would wait upon the patient, for which we were jointly concerned ; inform her of it, and leave her to choofe, by which of us ſhe would be attended. Yet added, that tho' he could not meet me as a phyſician, he ſhould be always glad to ſee me as a friend. I returned his compliment, and ſo we parted with more ceremony, than was quite conſiſtent with our mutual diſcord.

Soon after this, the doctor, ſtrictly obſervant of his promiſe, viſited the patient alone. He enquired, how the laſt preſcribed medicines agreed with her. And tho' he was told, very well ; he ſeemed to dread they might not continue to agree ; heſitated a diſlike to a preſcription, which had the ſanction of his own name ; and diſcountenanced a perſeverance in the courſe laid down in the conſultation,

sultation, even while it agreed well, and promised relief ; recommending it, at the same time, to the patient, to return to a course, of whose inefficacy, he was a witness ; seeing the lady had for seven months pursued it, without any sort of benefit, to say no worse. But, in this, the doctor was disappointed, by the patient's dismissing him entirely.

Thus I have been forced, from a regard to truth, common justice and self defence, to lay the narrative of these facts fairly before the public, in whose candid breasts alone, I look for justice.

As for any thing like an answer, that is not, I must suppose, to be extorted from these gentlemen ; the greatness of their reputation, puts them above all sense of feeling, from
attacks

attacks like these ; I can only look to partake with my abused friend, in the treatment he has lately received, and which I have formerly experienced here on a like occasion ; to be insulted in anonymous handbills ; or by the famed bard of Bath, in the expression of the dramatist, to be *chronicled in ditties, and sung to filthy tunes*. But, regardless of all such, I shall only desire the public to observe, that by this kind of behaviour, these gentlemen give up their cause, and confess the charges unanswerable.

Who does not see and mourn at the perversion of the most beneficent and liberal profession, into a most shameful and destructive conspiracy of sordid crafts-men ? Who, any where ever saw, the health and lives of the public, so sacrificed, to little private concerns, as now, here at Bath ?

Bath ? Who, ever before saw, fraud and falshood openly prescribed, as the only effectual seal for the bond of friendship ? Who, were ever before known, so hardened in iniquity, as avowedly to demand the erasing of the chronicle of their infamy, by publishing, in print, apparent, wilful LIES ?

What is the once god-like healing art come to, amongst us, when disinterested truth, humanity and public spirit, are enough to set it's practitioners at irreconcilable variance ? Is it an honour to be associated in such bands ? with such perverters of their profession ? such subverters of the hospital at Bath ? such unmask'd enemies of the public ?

Instead of such honour, such friendship, let humble obscurity and solitude

tude be my portion ! And since these gentlemen have thus thought fit to draw their swords against the dignity and honour of physic, and its worthy practitioners; against the public, and against me in particular ; it cannot be supposed that I shall let my weapon lye to rust in the scabbard. No ; We have the least to fear from our enemies when they are known. I am not to be dismayed by their Numbers. Nor do I think the world so corrupt as to let me stand alone, while I am in the right, and all the worthy sons of Æsculapius, and the whole public are no less concerned than I. But should that be possible, I shall not desert the duty of my station, but while I am able, shall assert and maintain the rights of a man ; and fear not with integrity for my helmet, and honour for my shield, to ward off the most invenom'd shafts of my enemies ;

mies ; and, under the banner of liberty and the laws, to level the pointed javelin of truth at such guilty heads, as thus dare to conspire against the common good of society.

Let me, therefore, at once, answer their proposals, and conclude in the words of the proved good man :

*My lips shall not speak wickedness,
nor my tongue utter deceit.*

*God forbid that I should justify you:
'Till I die, I will not remove my integrity from me.*

*My righteousness I hold fast, and
will not let it go : My heart shall not
reproach me so long as I live. Job,
Chap. xxvii.*

The E N D.

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